



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/783,371	02/14/2001	Fuzhong Yang	1534.00001	2314
7590	11/25/2003		EXAMINER	
Richard S. Phillips Wood, Phillips, VanSanten, Clark & Mortimer 500 West Madison Street, Suite 3800 Chicago, IL 60661-2511			RAMAKRISHNAIAH, MELUR	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2643	

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2003

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/783,371

Applicant(s)
Fuzhong Yang et al.

Examiner
Melur. Ramakrishnaiah

Art Unit
2643



— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (e). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 14, 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 2643

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koizumi (JP06-105257) in view of Ishikawa et al. (JP402076382A, hereinafter Ishikawa), Shima (JP402312370A), Yasumoto et al. (JP360025392A, hereinafter Yasumoto) and Shibata (JP359201600A).

Regarding claim 1, Koizumi disclose a television system comprising a television and at least one pair of frequency-splitting column sound boxes (10L, 10R, Drawing 1) with each having speakers, outputs of the sound television system being coupled respectively to the pair of sound boxes that are outside the television (Drawing 1, paragraphs: 0012-0018).

Koizumi differs from claim 1 in that he does not explicitly teach the following: a front amplifier and a power amplifier arranged in control circuit of the television circuit for sound signal processing, and three-stage frequency arrangement and further digital color television.

However, Shima discloses television receiver which teaches the following: a front amplifier and a power amplifier arranged in control circuit of the television circuit for sound signal

Art Unit: 2643

processing (fig. 1, see abstract); and Ishikawa discloses speaker system with built-in type television set which teaches the following: three-stage frequency arrangement (fig. 5, see abstract); and Yasumoto and Shibata, together, teach digital color television (see abstracts).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Koizumi's system to provide for the following: a front amplifier and a power amplifier arranged in control circuit of the television circuit for sound signal processing as this arrangement would provide means to drive the speakers with a signal of optimum voltage and frequency as taught by Sima, thus providing good sound level for listeners and three-stage frequency arrangement as this arrangement would provide means for obtaining better sound quality for the listener as taught by Ishikawa and further digital color television as this arrangement would further provide superior listening and viewing experience for the user as is well known in the art.

Regarding claim 2, Koizumi teaches plurality of speakers in sound boxes (Drawing 1, see abstract); but he does not teach the following: sound boxes are built into the color television.

However, Ishikawa teaches the following: sound boxes are built into the television (fig. 5, see abstract); and Shibata teaches color television receiver (fig. 2, see abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Koizumi's system to provide for the following: sound boxes are built into the color television as this arrangement would provide another method of installing speakers, thus providing a compact arrangement for television system.

Art Unit: 2643

3. Claims 3-4, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koizumi in view of Ishikawa, Shima, Yasumoto and Shibata as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Numagami (JP404054076A).

Regarding claims 3-4, the combination does not teach the following: speakers for those for the surrounding stereo.

However, Numagami discloses television receiver which teaches the following: speakers for those for the surrounding stereo (fig. 1, see abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: speakers for those for the surrounding stereo as this arrangement would facilitate for listening to stereo surround sound as taught by Numagami.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (703) 305-1461. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-9508.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Art Unit: 2643

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-6306, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305-9508 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).



Melur. Ramakrishnaiah
Melur. Ramakrishnaiah

PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit 2643.